

Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Accreditation Fact Sheet

Section 302 of the Medicare Modernization Act (the Act) required the Secretary to establish and implement quality standards for suppliers of Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS). All providers/suppliers that furnish durable medical equipment (DME), prosthetic device, prosthetic and orthotic items or services must comply with the quality standards in order to receive or retain a provider or supplier number. Covered items include:

- DME;
- Medical supplies;
- Home dialysis supplies and equipment;
- Therapeutic shoes;
- Parenteral and enteral nutrient, equipment and supplies;
- Transfusion medicine; and
- Prosthetic devices, prosthetics, and orthotics.

The DMEPOS quality standards are published on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicareprovidersupenroll>. The quality standards are separated into two sections and have three appendices, as follows:

- **Section I** includes the business standards that apply to all suppliers and focus on standards for administration, financial management, human resource management, consumer services, performance management, product safety, and information management.
- **Section II** contains service standards, including intake, delivery and setup, training and instruction of the beneficiary and/or their caregiver, and follow-up service.
- **Appendix A** focuses on respiratory equipment, supplies, and services.
- **Appendix B** focuses on manual wheelchairs and power mobility devices, including complex rehabilitation wheelchairs and assistive technology.
- **Appendix C** focuses on custom fabricated and custom fitted orthoses, external breast prostheses, therapeutic shoes and inserts and their accessories and supplies and custom-made somatic, ocular and facial prostheses.

Existing DMEPOS suppliers enrolled in the Medicare program are required to obtain and submit an approved accreditation to the National Supplier Clearinghouse (NSC) by **September 30, 2009** or risk having their Medicare billing privileges revoked on October 1, 2009. The NSC shall revoke a DMEPOS providers/supplier's billing privileges if the DMEPOS provider/supplier fails to obtain and submit supporting documentation that the DMEPOS provider/supplier has been accredited.

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DMEPOS providers/suppliers should note that:

- All surveys are performed on site at the supplier location.
- All surveys are unannounced.
- Accreditation cannot be transferred upon merger, acquisition or sale. CMS, the NSC and the deemed accreditation organization (AO) must be notified when these events occur.
- The AO and the NSC will be coordinating efforts so that the supplier number shall be revoked when accreditation is revoked.
- Suppliers can contact the AO directly based on the information provided at the CMS website.

Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Accreditation Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who will have priority during the accreditation process?

CMS has instructed the deemed accreditation organizations (AOs) to focus first on those suppliers who submitted a complete accreditation application to the AOs by **January 31, 2009**. After such time, CMS cannot ensure that the suppliers will receive an accreditation decision by the **September 31, 2009** accreditation deadline.

2. Do the Accrediting Organizations (AO) have enough capacity to get everyone accredited by September of 2009?

Yes. The AOs have increased surveyor staffing anticipating the additional workload. The DMEPOS supplier should choose an AO based upon their deemed status, policies, procedures and the philosophy of the organization. CMS encourages the suppliers to ask the AOs questions, such as, how long it takes to become accredited from application to accreditation decision. The time to become accredited can take up to 6 months.

3. Who are the approved DMEPOS accrediting organizations (AOs)?

In December 2006, CMS approved (deemed) 10 ten national accreditation organizations that will accredit suppliers of durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics and supplies (DMEPOS) as meeting new quality standards under Medicare Part B. Most of the accreditation organizations are authorized to accredit all major supplier types, and most will be able to accredit both national and local suppliers, as well as mail order companies. A list of the CMS approved deemed AOs and information about the types of suppliers each AO is approved to accredit, and contact information is posted on the CMS web site at:

www.cms.hhs.gov/medicareprovidersupenroll

4. Where can I find the quality standards?

The quality standards are published on the CMS website at:

www.cms.hhs.gov/medicareprovidersupenroll

5. If I buy an existing supplier, do I need to get it accredited?

Accreditations are non-transferable. However if the buyer is accredited, the buyer's accreditor may accredit the new supplier location for three months after it is operational without requiring a new site visit.

6. If I have just recently received a survey by an accreditor will I be subject to a site visit by a representative of the National Supplier Clearinghouse (NSC)?

These actions are independent of one another. The accreditor checks quality standards. The NSC site visit concerns enforcing supplier standards. In many cases, a new supplier will receive an unannounced site survey by the accrediting organization and the NSC.

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7. Is information transferred between the accreditor and National Supplier Clearinghouse (NSC)?

Transfer of information between these two entities concerning their findings does occur. The NSC needs to know if a supplier is accredited prior to issuing an enrollment number, thus they will need to verify the accreditation status with the accreditor.

8. Will the accreditation survey efforts be coordinated with reenrollment efforts?

Not at the present time. A supplier must meet both the Medicare supplier standards and the accreditation requirements on a continuous basis. We are not changing reenrollment dates and timeframes to match survey timeframes.